



ULSTER COUNTY NEWS

ULSTER COUNTY NEWS INFORMATION
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OCTOBER 19, 2006

Comparative Costs – Ulster County And Charter Counties With Executives

“In response to questions raised about the cost of the Charter Reform being presented to the voters on November 7 this year as Proposition One, Dr. Gerald Benjamin has provided some estimates of the costs,” said David B. Donaldson, Chairman of the Ulster County Legislature.

Dr. Gerald Benjamin, Chairman of the Ulster County Charter Commission, has provided research on that issue by comparing the per-capita spending in Ulster County over the most recent 10 year period with the per-capita spending in eight counties that have elected county executives (Oneida, Rensselaer, Chemung, Orange, Dutchess, Broome, Putnam, and Chautauqua. The eight counties spending was added and averaged by the population. That was \$119.89 per capita. Ulster County averaged \$142.34 per capita for the same ten year period. Six of the counties had lower county per capita averages than Ulster with two having a higher per capita average.

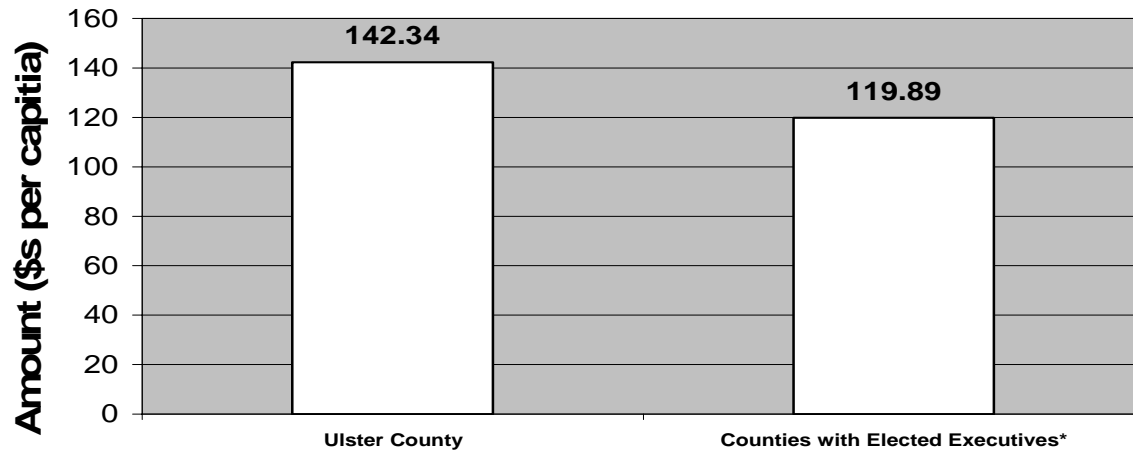
“This is not perfect information, but it certainly shows what a difference the new charter reform can make in our total county budget with county executive form of government,” continued David B. Donaldson.

Things to remember about this comparison:

- One – It is based on published data gathered and published by the New York State Comptroller.
- Two – it compares apples to apples – general government expenditures (not all counties do all the same things, so you can’t compare all county expenditures fairly).
- Three – It removes the effect of different sized populations by doing the comparison on a per capita basis.
- Four – It is not biased on the basis of one year’s information. Averages over a ten year period give a fairer picture than one or two year’s information.

Note: see table below

**Average Per Capita Spending for General
Government in Eight County Executive Charter
Counties and Ulster County, 1994-2003**



***County Executive Counties in this chart are Oneida, Rensselaer, Chemung, Orange, Dutchess, Broome, Putnam and Chautaugua
(Note: Average mean spending is 18.76% higher in Ulster County)**